

GRF continues its work to record and distribute programmes for radio stations in Britain and worldwide.

Our aim is to help listeners who are coming to faith, and those who are already on a journey to discover new dimensions of their faith.

All of GRF's programmes are made by a voluntary interdenominational team.

This Prayer Letter gives you a snapshot of what GRF is currently doing.

If you would like to get involved in the work of GRF as a prayer partner, church contact or potential member of the team, we would be pleased to hear from you.

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Members of the GRF Team recording programmes for Lent and Easter.

radio award nomination

A GRF programme has been selected for the shortlist for the 2011 **Sandford St Martin Radio Awards**. The programme, *Seven Last Words: the Sixth Word*, was one of a series of seven produced by GRF for Good Friday 2010 and broadcast on a number of radio stations throughout Britain. The Sandford St Martin nomination relates to one of the programmes broadcast by **Trans World Radio** on their DAB station in north-west England.

The Sandford St Martin Awards are one of Britain's most prestigious annual awards for radio and TV programmes dealing with religious or spiritual themes. This year's award ceremony will take place in front of an invited industry audience at Lambeth Palace in London on 17 May.

For Easter 2011: As this Prayer Letter is being written, we have largely completed recording programmes for Lent and Easter. These have included six short programmes for Lent; each programme uses a mix of words and music to explore images of God's love and mercy. For these, we've adapted material from the Lenten study *Exploring God's Mercy* written by Steven Croft, Bishop of Sheffield (available from Church House Publishing).

We are also recording three character sketches suitable for broadcast by radio stations as a series during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday.

finance update

In common with charities throughout Britain and Ireland, GRF has experienced a challenging few years. At the moment, this position seems set to continue. GRF is remarkable in terms of its efficient use of money and good stewardship of resources. All the work you read about in our Prayer Letters is undertaken on a budget of just over £20,000 a year. All team members are entirely voluntary so all donations therefore go directly to fund programme making.

Enclosed with this Prayer Letter is a personal letter from GRF's Treasurer. The Team hopes that you find the information helpful and that it will encourage you in your continuing support of GRF. Thank you.

meet the team!

Visit our radio studios and find out how programmes are made. Or we can come to your meeting or church service. Call 0141 221 9447 to arrange.

Easter Prayer

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never
shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Mysterious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of
resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts
today.

May the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
live in us each day;
that we might be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

team news

Very many congratulations to team member **Euan Lawson** and his wife **Roz** who have recently had a baby girl, Grace Violet.

On a more harrowing note (at least for them!), students **David Fraser**, **David Herbert** and **Elizabeth Muir** will be sitting their exams soon, so spare a thought for them in this time of trial.

And lastly, it has become something of a happy annual Prayer Letter tradition to thank long-term GRF supporter **Edith Millar** for her most impressive fundraising efforts. By making and selling Christmas cards, she has managed to raise £1,150 this year. As ever, Edith's hard work - and excellent cards - are deeply appreciated by the team at GRF.

programme news

○ Burns' night

This year, GRF finally achieved a long-standing ambition: a programme for Burns Night! Team member Jim Ewing selected and recited Burn's *Paraphrase of the First Psalm* for a single-voice recording with no sound background. Jim says, "Burns Night had always been overlooked before, falling as it does just after Christmas and not long before we start thinking about Lent and Easter - but this year we were ready for it! People are often surprised to learn how much sacred poetry Burns wrote. In his sober moments he expressed great regret for the lifestyle he's often remembered for." The programme received 14 downloads on *Audiopot* - the website where people can download programmes for broadcast, and for use in church and school - making it the most popular programme in recent months.

○ poverty and homelessness week

At the beginning of the year GRF recorded a variety of different programmes for Poverty & Homelessness Action Week (29 Jan - 6 Feb 2011), including interviews, points of view and a music feature.

You can listen to some of these programmes by visiting our website at www.grf.org.uk. Available on the site is an interview with Anne Wallace from Salt and Light Ministry who talks about her own experience of homelessness and the work of Salt and Light as they offer 'practical help and support to the lost and broken in Glasgow'. You can also listen to *Jamie and Me*, a true story from GRF's Anne Muir about an encounter with a young homeless man.

○ letter from Scotland

Since November, Anne Muir has taken over from Blair Armstrong as writer and presenter for our series *Letter from Scotland*. The series is made up of a monthly three-minute personal reflection on a topical issue recorded for Downtown Radio Belfast.

Anne says, "It has been daunting to step into the shoes of Blair Armstrong, but I've enjoyed the challenge!"